



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

September 5, 2019

MS. EMMA BEST
DEPT MR 74344
411A HIGHLAND AVENUE
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144

FOIPA Request No.: 1425709-000
Subject: Operation Payback

Dear Ms. Best:

Reference is made to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request above. This letter will serve to document your email exchange with my representative concluding on September 3, 2019.

My representative explained that your request is currently in the extra-large track of our multi-track backlog of unassigned FOIA requests. This track contains requests for records in excess of 8,000 pages and assignments from this queue to our FOIA Processing Units are typically delayed for a significant amount of time. My representative indicated that the FBI located approximately 18,649 pages potentially related to your subject and you were offered the opportunity to reduce the scope of your request to accelerate its assignment for processing. Based on that exchange, you agreed to eliminate the court documents from the request.

Through negotiation, your request was reduced from an extra-large track request of 18,649 pages to an extra-large track request of approximately 16,856 pages, which will reduce its processing time. We certainly appreciate your consideration in this matter and solicit your continued patience.

If you have any further questions or wish to further narrow the scope of your request, please do not hesitate to telephone 540-868-1695. You may also submit questions via the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hardy", is positioned above the typed name.

David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Information Management Division